



BOROUGH OF OKEHAMPTON

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the year 1939.

To The Okehampton Borough Council,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an abridged report for the year 1939. This is in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health. All documents relating to the year have been filed in order that a full Report may be made after the War.

Vital Statistics.- Population estimated 3,700.

Live Births - males 20, Females 29. Total 49.
Birth rate, 13.2 per 1000 population.

Deaths - Males 26, Females 31. Total 57.
Death rate, 15.4 per 1000 population.

Chief Causes of death - Heart &c. 15. Cancer 9.
Lungs 8. Measles 2.
Tuberculosis 1.

No comparative figures for England and Wales are available.

The general health services were maintained throughout the year at their usual efficient level.

Infectious diseases

Very little infectious diseases occurred during the first three quarters of the year but during the Autumn and early winter the population were unfortunate in having a series of epidemics. Influenza, sore throat, Measles, Rubella Scarlet fever and mumps. During the weeks Oct 1st to Dec. 9th no less than 179 cases of measles were notified in the Borough with two deaths. A special Report was presented at the time. Tuberculosis - Three new cases were notified and one death was recorded from this disease,

The other outstanding features of the year were the organising of the A.R.P. Services which at the present time are very efficient, and the reception of Evacuees in the Autumn of the year. This latter will be dealt with fully in the survey report.

Factories workshops and workplaces were inspected as a routine and advice, where necessary, given. No official notices had to be served.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E.D.Allen-Price.

